



Docket No.: K-0103B

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Jae Cheol LYU et al.

Serial No.: 10/724,235

Group Art Unit: 1746

Filed: 12/1/2003

Examiner: Frankie L. Stinson

Confirmation No.: 8759

Customer No.: 34610

For: PENETRATION TYPE WASHING MACHINE, METHOD FOR CONTROLLING
THE SAME, AND TUB COVER FOR THE SAME

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, **Mail Stop AF**
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated February 22, 2006, the period for response having been extended two months by a Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, reconsideration of the rejections set forth therein is respectfully requested as follows:

Claims 1-7 are pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirby, U.S. Patent No. 2,119,918, in view of Riall, U.S. Patent No. 1,850,138, or Brenner et al. (hereinafter "Brenner"), U.S. Patent No. 4,784,666. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a washing machine comprising, *inter alia*, a motor installed under the outer tub and configured to rotate the inner tub and the pulsator, wherein the motor is configured to vary a rotation speed of the inner tub and the pulsator, such that the laundry is washed by a combination of modes as follows: a centrifugal force washing mode, wherein the motor rotates the inner tub and the pulsator in the same direction for a first predetermined period of time, thereby creating a centrifugal force that is varied according to a variation of the rotation speed, which pushes the laundry against a wall of the inner tub; and an agitation washing mode, wherein the motor rotates the inner tub and the pulsator in the same direction at an identical speed, and then rotates the inner tub and pulsator in a first direction for a second predetermined period of time and then in a second, reverse direction for the second period of time. None of the applied references, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a washing machine as claimed having the recited motor capable of washing laundry by the combination of claimed modes, or the specifics of the particular claimed combination of modes.

Rather, Kirby merely discloses a fabric cleansing machine which includes both washing and centrifugal-extracting apparatus. Kirby teaches components capable of creating “vigorous oscillation of the container and its contents, the fabric contents thereof being thereby slapped gently against the blade 82 while the corrugated bottom produces a vertical shaking of the liquid.” Kirby does not disclose or suggest that laundry is washed by a combination of modes, as recited in independent claim 1, or the specifics of the particular claimed combination of modes, as recited in independent claim 1.

Riall teaches a washing machine capable of oscillating or rotary movements to drive water and washing compounds contained therein through clothes, to cleanse the same. However, Riall does not disclose or suggest that laundry is washed by a combination of modes, as recited in independent claim 1, or the specifics of the particular claimed combination of modes, as recited in independent claim 1.

Brenner discloses a high performance washing process for a vertical access automatic washer. The washer 10 includes an electric motor 44 that operates through a transmission drive 46 to drive a basket 26 in a rotary motion as well as an agitator 30 in an oscillatory motion. However, Brenner also fails to disclose that laundry is washed by a combination of modes as recited in independent claim 1, or the specifics of the particular claimed combination of modes, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Kirby and either Riall or Brenner should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-7 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. 10/724,235
Reply to Office Action dated February 22, 2006

Docket No. K-0103B

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP


Carol L. Druzbeck
Registration No. 40,287

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703-766-3701 CLD/kah

Date: July 24, 2006

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610